

Summary of Major Provisions of the Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute to the Manufacturing Technology Competitiveness Act (H.R. 250)

The Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute Would:

- Establish an Interagency Committee on Manufacturing Research and Development to coordinate Federal manufacturing R&D efforts, and an Advisory Committee to guide those efforts. The Interagency Committee would prepare a strategic plan for manufacturing R&D, produce a coordinated interagency budget, and write an annual report on the Federal programs involved in manufacturing R&D. The President may designate existing bodies to serve as the committees.
- Establish a three-year cost-shared, collaborative manufacturing R&D pilot grant program at NIST, funded at \$10 million per year for FY 2006, FY 2007, and FY 2008.
- Establish a post-doctoral and senior research fellowship program in manufacturing sciences at NIST, funded beginning at \$1.5 million in FY 2006 and increasing to \$2 million in FY 2008.
- Reauthorize the MEP program with a mechanism for review and re-competition of MEP Centers. H.R. 250 would also create an additional competitive grant program from which MEP centers can obtain supplemental funding for manufacturing-related projects. Funds would be authorized at \$110 million in FY 2006, of which \$4 million would be for a competitive grant program within MEP, and the MEP authorization would increase by \$5 million per year to \$120 million in FY 2008.
- Authorize funding for NIST's main laboratory account (Scientific, Technical, and Research Services or STRS), the Baldrige Quality Award program, and the Construction and Maintenance account. The STRS and Construction accounts would be authorized in FY 2006 at the President's request of \$426 million and \$59.8 million respectively, increasing by 5 percent in FY 2007 and 2.1 percent in FY 2008. H.R. 250 would also establish a standards education grant program at NIST and authorize funding beginning at \$773,000 in FY 2006.
- Require the Secretary of Commerce to report to Congress on the impacts of the proposed elimination of the Advanced Technology Program on NIST's laboratory accounts, and how these impacts could be mitigated.